


tsunami tragedy overwhelms millions
[Help Now!](#)
[support relief efforts](#)

[Beacon News](#)
[Courier News](#)
[Herald News](#)
[Naperville Sun](#)
[News Sun](#)
[Sun Publications](#)

[GET HOME DELIVERY](#)
[Marketplace](#)
[Autos](#)
[Classified Ads](#)
[New Homes](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[ChicagoJobs.com](#)
[News](#)
[Business](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Features](#)
[Sports](#)
[Staff Columnists](#)
[The Beacon News](#)

- Denise Crosby

[The Courier News](#)

- E.C. "Mike" Alft
- Mike Bailey
- Betty Brown
- Dave Gathman

[The Herald News](#)

- Sue Baker
- Charla Brautigam
- Cindy Cain
- Mohra Gavankar
- Andrea Hein
- Jan Larsen
- Charles Pelkie
- Nick Reiher
- Gary Seymour
- Shooting from the Lip
- Ted Slowik
- Kim Smith
- Kris Stadalsky
- Leena Trivedi
- John Whiteside

[Community](#)
[Columnists](#)
[The Batavia Sun](#)

- Tom Parisi

[The Bolingbrook Sun](#)

- Toni Greathouse

[The Downers Grove](#)
[Sun](#)

- Shelley Kimmons Bacote
- Elaine Johnson

[The Fox Valley Sun](#)

- Judy Buchenot

[The Geneva Sun](#)

- Rick Holinger

[The Glen Ellyn Sun](#)

- Sandy Stevens

[The Homer Sun](#)

- Dave Drown

[The Lincoln-Way Sun](#)

- Karen Hanson

[The Lisle Sun](#)

- Barbara Green

History for sale at Bolingbrook church auction

Published in Sun Publications 11/12/04

From 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, every resident will have a chance to bid on genuine pieces of Bolingbrook history.

The auction is courtesy of First Presbyterian Church of DuPage, the very first house of worship organized in the Bolingbrook area, in 1832. The old structure where the sale will be held was constructed in 1909 and is on Weber Road, just south of Boughton Road. The building is no longer needed, since the congregation is finishing the construction of a new worship space.

The first part of the auction was held last Saturday, with this Saturday being the last opportunity to bid on a laundry list of diverse items. All pieces will be available for viewing and open for bid.

If you're interested, the church office has compiled a five-page listing that also outlines the rules and regulations on the bidding and removal processes.

A sampling of the items for sale: wood panels, a brick front entry, double doors, countertops, ceiling fans, coat racks, pew benches, an organ, a movie screen, toilets, tables, a projector, a refrigerator, hymn boards, speakers, light fixtures, choir chairs and stair rails.

"The church is 171 years old, and it is going to be leveled," said parishioner Penny Kukek. "When you look at some of the wood items we're selling, I think people (especially those who know how to work with wood) will appreciate what's being offered. The oak pieces are solid and sturdy, and you really can't find many materials as sturdy and like those anymore.

"It's such a shame to see it go, but there have been preparations made to preserve a little bit of the history (of the church)," she said.

Kukek said a room is being constructed in the new church that will hold some of the treasures from the old one.

"The old church has such a special feeling, and it's hard to let go of some of the items, but we've really outgrown the structure," she said.

According to Kukek, the new church will be six and a half times larger than the old one. It has been under construction since October and should be ready for use by the beginning of 2005.

Though the old building will soon be gone, its legacy will last forever in Bolingbrook, said Judy Bredweg of the Bolingbrook Historical Society.


TONI GREATHOUSE
 [Email Story](#)

- [Write to Toni...](#)
- [Bolingbrook Sun columnists](#)
- [SCNmedia columnists](#)

PAST COLUMNS

- [Success stories offer inspiration \(01/28/05\)](#)

- [Even during winter's chill, you can feel the burn \(01/21/05\)](#)

- [Dropping pounds a weighty matter \(01/14/05\)](#)

- [Bolingbrook saw plenty of change in 2004 \(01/07/05\)](#)

- [New year good time to re-examine life \(12/31/04\)](#)

- [Plenty of ways to ring in the new year in style \(12/24/04\)](#)

- [Gifts from the heart don't have to cost much money \(12/17/04\)](#)

- [Local resident offers diverse learning experience for kids \(12/10/04\)](#)

- [Christmas spirit lighting up Bolingbrook \(12/03/04\)](#)

- [Plenty to be thankful for this time of year \(11/26/04\)](#)

- [Adults can make a difference in the lives of troubled teens \(11/19/04\)](#)

- [History for sale at Bolingbrook church auction \(11/12/04\)](#)

- [Bolingbrook students](#)

The Naperville Sun

- Joni Hirsch Blackman
- J.J. Evans
- Josh Larsen
- Bill Meago
- Anthony Snyder
- Tim West

The Plainfield Sun

- Susan Frick Carlman
- Tom Hernandez

The St. Charles Sun

- Joani Foster

The Wheaton Sun

- Christine Litavsky

Other Topics**Business**

- Malcolm Berko
- James Faber
- Rob Larson

Computing

- Matt Cappellini

Lifestyles

- Dear Abby
- Dr. Peter Gott
- Cathy Morelli

Sports

- David Allen
- Bob Maciulis
- Mike Nadel

Other Opinions**Local Opinions**

- The Beacon News
- The Courier News
- The Herald News
- The News Sun
- The Naperville Sun

OpenLine / SpeakOut

- The Beacon News
- The Courier News
- The Herald News

Site Tools**About Our Site****Advertiser Index****Privacy Policy****Search****Terms of Use**

According to Bredweg, the church had its beginning in a small hickory log schoolhouse built in the fall of 1832 at Barkdoll and Royce roads. Records show that the building was the first public school in what was then Cook County. More than 100 years ago, the old Cook County encompassed what is now Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Will, Kankakee and Iroquois counties.

The Rev. Nathaniel Cattlin Clark arrived in the community in the spring of 1833 and assisted in organizing the new church. Before the arrival of Clark, the Rev. Aratas Kent, a Presbyterian missionary, en route on horseback from Galena to Chicago, stopped in the community and preached at the new schoolhouse.

On July 13, 1833, a preliminary meeting was held at the schoolhouse where Isaac Clark, Promeroy Goodrich and Leister Peet were named as the first ruling elders. That following week, people from nearby settlements came together to worship and overcrowded the little schoolhouse, so services were moved outside to a grove of oak and hickory trees.

Although the Methodists are credited with having held the first religious services in the community at the home of Pearce Hawley, the DuPage Presbyterian Church claims to be the oldest church in the area now covered by Will County, Bredweg said.

It was also recorded that two years before the formal organization of the church, Robert Strong had established a Sunday school in the community at the home of Israel P. Blodgett.

There were denominational differences from the inception of the church. The church officially adopted the congregational form of government on Aug. 1, 1834, barely a year after its organization, making the elders into deacons.

In the pioneer era in Illinois, these types of changeovers were not unusual, Bredweg said.

During its first few years, the congregation held services in the schoolhouse, in groves and in members' homes. Then, in 1839, members left the schoolhouse, and services were offered in a courthouse in Naperville.

Services were held there for eight years, until members began complaining about how inconvenient it was to travel to the location. In 1847, plans were made to erect a new church building on a site that would be on Naperville-Joliet Road just south of Boughton Road. The completed structure was dedicated on Feb. 24, 1853.

Documents state that the land the church was built on would be leased to the trustees of the church and their successors by Reuben W. Smith for the rental of one peppercorn per annum.

The building was later enlarged and a parsonage was constructed. The facility was rededicated on May 30, 1909. It's the same building that is now targeted for demolition.

A stone marker was placed at the site of the "Old Hickory" schoolhouse, where First Presbyterian Church of DuPage was founded. On its 125th anniversary in 1958, the congregation held a ceremony at the old schoolhouse site.

In the past 10 years, the rapid growth in the village has brought about great changes in the church. The Rev. Jan Kennedy is the current pastor, and the

[learn lesson about importance of voting](#)
(11/05/04)

CONTACT US**At the newspaper:**

- [Contact one of our editorial staff members](#)
- [Send a letter to the editor for publication](#)
- [Send a news release](#)
- [Subscribe to the paper](#)
- [Place a classified ad](#)
- [Contact the customer service department](#)
- [Get information about advertising in the paper](#)

At the Web site:

- [Ask questions and get answers about the site](#)
- [Provide a tip about breaking news](#)
- [Subscribe to our free daily headlines e-mail](#)
- [Get information about advertising on the site](#)

ADVERTISERS

[Your Chicago Real Estate and Condo Search](#)

[Best Las Vegas Real Estate and home listings](#)

[Sunny Boca Raton Florida Real Estate and homes](#)

[Jobst Compression Stockings](#)

[Athletic Braces & Supports, Wheelchair Cushions & Ortho pillows](#)

[Place your site here - click here for more info](#)

church has about 250 members.

For information on the sale or the church, call (630) 759-8843.

Contact Toni Greathouse at P.O. Box 1061, Bolingbrook, IL 60440.

11/12/04

Ads by Goooooogle

[Purpose and Passion](#)

Staffing with Integrity and Values MinistryKeys helps you hire right

www.MinistryKeys.com

[American Presbyterian Bks](#)

Free & discounted American Puritan, Reformed & Presbyterian books & CDs

www.swrb.com

[Free Quickverse Bible CD](#)

Nonprofit gives away free Bible Study Software

www.FreeBibleSoftware.com

[Methodist Church for Sale](#)

Discount Methodist Church. aff Check out the deals now!

www.ebay.com

SuburbanChicagoNews.com — © 2005 Digital Chicago & Hollinger International Inc.